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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/085,262
	Filing Date	February 27, 2002
	First Named Inventor	Roxy Ni Fan Et. Al.
	Art Unit	1752
	Examiner Name	Richard L. Schilling
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	Attorney Docket Number	IM1300USNA

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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY
Signature	Thomas H. Magee
Date	March 29, 2004

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

ROXY NI FAN ET AL.

CASE NO.: IM1300 US NA

APPLICATION NO.: 10/085,262

GROUP ART UNIT: 1752

FILED: FEBRUARY 27, 2002

EXAMINER: RICHARD L. SCHILLING

CONFIRMATION NO.: 1704

FOR: A PROCESS FOR MAKING A FLEXOGRAPHIC PRINTING
PLATE AND A PHOTSENSITIVE ELEMENT FOR USE IN
THE PROCESS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claims 1 through 7, 9 10, 14 through 16, 18, 20 through 30, 33 through 42 and 45 through 50 as being anticipated by Daems et al. (US 2002/0009672 A1) under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) or (e), or as being obvious over Daems et al., under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 recites a process for making a flexographic printing plate wherein a photosensitive element comprises at least one photopolymerizable layer on a support and at least one thermally removable layer disposed above the photopolymerizable layer. The thermally removable layer is selected from a group that includes an actinic radiation opaque layer comprising (i) at least one infrared absorbing material, (ii) a radiation opaque material, wherein (i) and (ii) can be the same or different, and at least one binder having a softening or melting temperature less than 190°C. The photopolymerizable layer is imagewise exposed to actinic radiation forming polymerized portions and unpolymerized portions, and then thermally treated by heating to a temperature sufficient to remove the thermally removable layer and the unpolymerized portions of the photopolymerizable layer, thereby forming a relief.

Attached herewith is a Declaration under 37 CFR 1.131 of co-inventor Adrian Lungu showing a completion of the claimed invention in this country before the filing date of Daems et al. on June 26, 2000. Applicants respectfully submit that the facts set forth in the Declaration show that the claimed invention was completed in this country prior to or on June 9, 1999, thereby predating the June 26, 2000 filing date of Daems et al. and removing Daems et al. as a competent reference under 35 U.S.C. 102(a), 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Since Daems et al. is no longer available for use as a reference in rejecting the present claims, it is respectfully submitted that the invention recited in Claims 1 through 7, 9, 10, 14 through 16, 18, 20 through 30, 33 through 42 and 45 through 50 is neither anticipated nor obvious to one skilled in the art. The allowance of these claims along with Claims 8, 11 through 13, 17, 19, 31, 32, 43, 44 and 51 through 54 is therefore respectfully solicited.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 29, 2004

Enclosure